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Vol. 4, No. 4

The Advisor

Jul/Aug 2006

A York County Newsletter for Professional Horticulturists
And Workers in the Green Industry

2006 Calendar of Events

- Jul 12-16 **ANLA Convention and Learning Retreat**, Vail, CO.
www.anla.org/applications/Documents/Docs/06_Vail_Convention_Revised.pdf
- Jul 16-22 **24th Perennial Plant Association Symposium and Trade Show**, Montreal, Québec.
<http://www.perennialplant.org/symposium/sym06.htm>
- Jul 19-23 **Water Gardening Symposium, 2006**, Fort Lauderdale, Vero Beach, FL. Sponsored by the International Waterlily & Water Gardening Society. www.iwgs.org/ItineraryOverview2.cfm
- Jul 21 **6th International Conference on Recirculating Aquaculture**, Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center, Roanoke, VA.
<http://www.calendar.vt.edu/main.php?view=event&eventid=1139498031766>
- Jul 25-27 **Penn Allied Nursery Trade Show (PANTS) 2006**, Atlantic City, NJ. www.plna.com/content.asp?pants
- Jul 31--
Aug 2 **International Society for Arboriculture (ISA) 82nd Annual Conference and Trade Show**, Minneapolis, MN.
www.isa-arbor.com/conference/default.aspx
- Aug 10-12 **SNA 2006 – World's Showcase of Horticulture**, Atlanta, GA. www.sna.org/tradeshows/index.shtml
- Aug 15 **DEADLINE** for "Keep Virginia Beautiful Landscape Excellence Awards Program" submissions. Entry forms at:
www.vnla.org/News/KVB Awards.htm
- Aug 16 **VNLA Risk Management Seminar**, Wakefield, VA. www.vnla.org/FieldDay06/risk_management_seminar.htm
- Aug 17 **VNLA Field Day, Showcasing Success in Smithfield**, Bennett's Creek Nursery's Isle of Wight Farm, Smithfield, VA.
www.vnla.org/FieldDay06/FieldDay06.htm
- Aug 18 **VNLA Summer Tour**, Tidewater Area. www.vnla.org/FieldDay06/summer_tour.htm
- Aug 24-26 **Farwest Show**, Oregon Convention Center, Portland, OR. www.farwestshow.com/index.html
- Sep 20-22 **Fashion in Bloom** (formerly called Eastern Performance Trials)(see Dollars & Sense article for information)
- Sep 23-24 **Green Profit's Retail Experience 2006**, Indianapolis, IN. www.ballpublishing.com/conferences/retail/
- Sep 24-27 **2006 Perennial Production Conference**, Indianapolis, IN. www.ballpublishing.com/conferences/perennial/
- Sep 26-27 **Virginia Tech Field Day**, Skelton Conference Center, Blacksburg, VA.
<http://vaturf.org/calendar.php?do=event&id=68&VESESSID=d59221164fb16d92bd6e0274c4bada9b>
- Sep 28-30 **OFA's 5th Annual AMERICA IN BLOOM, Symposium and Awards Program**, Eureka Springs, AR.
www.ofanet.org/pdf/AIB/06aibymposiumbrochure.pdf
- Sep 30-Oct 1 **31st Annual Virginia Wine Fest**, Leesburg, VA. www.virginiawinefestival.org/
- Oct 2 **Hampton Roads Agricultural Research & Extension Center's 31st Annual Field Day**, Virginia Beach, VA.
<http://arecs.vaes.vt.edu/arec.cfm?webname=hampton§ion=news>
- Oct 2-4 **MAC-ISA Annual Meeting**, Virginia Beach, VA. Contact 703-753-0499 www.mac-isa.org/events.htm
- Oct 19-22 **225th Anniversary: Victory at Yorktown**, a Jamestown 2007 Signature Event, Yorktown, VA.
www.jamestown2007.org/se-yorktown225.cfm
- Oct 6-7 **Middle Tennessee Nursery Association (MTNA) Trade Show**, McMinnville, TN. www.mtna.com/tsmenu.htm

www.ext.vt.edu

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DOLLARS & SENSE

FASHION IN BLOOM -- COLLECTION 2007

What will be the hottest new plants for Spring 2007? See a preview at Garden Centers of America's *Fashion in Bloom* (formerly Eastern Performance Trials) host locations, Sep 20 – 24, where the horticulture industry will present their new collections to independent garden centers, landscape contractors, growers and the media. Consumer day is 25th. The host locations are:

- McDonald Garden Center, Virginia Beach, VA
- White's Nursery & Greenhouses, Chesapeake, VA
- Virginia Growers, Montpelier, VA
- American Horticultural Society at River Farm, Alexandria, VA
- Homestead Growers, Davidsonville, MD
- Conard-Pyle Co., West Grove, PA

To register, see participating companies at each location and for more information click on

www.fashioninbloom.com or contact Kim McCloskey at 440-602-9115 or kim@clearwindow.net.

CANADA-US RESOLVE LUMBER DISPUTE

Canada and the United States have reached a long-term agreement that resolves the longstanding softwood lumber dispute between the two countries. There will be no quotas and no tariffs at current prices on Canadian softwood lumber imports and at least four billion dollars in duties collected returned. U.S. timber industry said it could support the accord, but do not expect this to give a price-break on new houses.

LAWN AND GARDEN MARKET TRENDS

The National Garden Association's 35th annual survey found that 83% (91 million) American households participated in some type of do-it-yourself indoor or outdoor lawn and garden activities in 2005 -- an increase of 11% over 2004's survey. Some numbers:

	2004	2005	
Lawn Care	\$8.887B	\$9.657B	+9%
Flower Gardening	\$2.735B	\$3.003B	+10%
Vegetable Gardening	\$1.058B	\$1.154	+9%
Container Gardening	\$1.196	\$1.295	+8%

But these select numbers are deceiving. While the total households increased, the amount spent per household declined, resulting in a decrease in total sales for 2005 of \$1.57B (4%) compared to 2004 and slightly below the past five-year average. Households that spent the most on their lawns and gardens in 2005 included those with no children at home, married households, college graduates, two-person households, those in the South, those with annual incomes over \$75,000, and among people 45 years of age and older. For more information about the 2005 National Gardening Survey or to purchase a copy (\$695.00) go to their website at: www.gardenresearch.com.

NEW USDA TOOL: IRRIGATION ENERGY ESTIMATOR

The Energy Estimator for Irrigation tool can estimate potential energy savings associated with pumping water for irrigation. NRCS technical specialists developed this model to integrate general technical information, farm-specific crops, energy prices, and pumping requirement. <http://energytools.sc.egov.usda.gov>

FEDERAL NURSERY GUIDES BEING REVIEWED

Don't like the Federal Nursery Guides? Now is your chance to tell the Federal Trade Commission what to change. The FTC is seeking public comments on its "Guides for the Nursery Industry" (16CFR18) as part of the Commission's systematic review of all current Commission regulations and guides. Written comments must be received by Aug 14. The Guides for the Nursery Industry were adopted by the Commission in 1979 and amended in their 1994 review. These Guides address numerous sales practices for outdoor plants, including deceptive claims as to quantity, size, grade, kind, species, age, maturity, condition, vigor, hardiness, growth ability, price, and origin or place where grown. The Nursery Guides can be viewed on-line at:

www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_00/16cfr18_00.html. FTC's

Federal Register notice provides details on making comments.

<http://www.ftc.gov/os/2006/06/P994248NurseryGuidesFRNoticeRequestringComments.pdf>



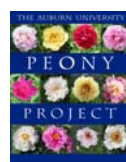
IS YOURS PLANTED? Garden designs, plant lists, participating growers and retailers, and other resources go to:

www.ext.vt.edu/americasgarden/index.html

ECKE RANCH BUYS OGLEVEE'S

The Paul Ecke Ranch has announced it is acquiring Oglevee's business effective July 06. The two companies are working to integrate their production, sales, marketing, breeding and Oglevee's patented CVI clean stock system. This acquisition makes Ecke the only North American based company breeding and producing geraniums and poinsettias.

www.ecke.com/pdf/EckeAcquiresOglevee.pdf



BUYING PEONY'S FOR NEXT YEAR?

For a list of cultivars and their blooms, visit Auburn University's *Peony Project* at:

www.ag.auburn.edu/hort/landscape/AU_Peony_Project.html

OFA WEB SITE CHANGE

OFA has established a temporary web site at <http://www.ofanet.org/> while it deals with the hijacking of its domain name ofa.org. No personal data about association members or Short Course registrants was listed on the original OFA Web site, so this information has not been compromised.

E.Y.I.**2007 ALL-AMERICAN ROSE SELECTIONS**

AARS outstanding new award-winning roses for 2007 are **Rainbow Knock Out®**, **Moondance™** and **Strike It Rich™**. The winners excelled during two years of rigorous testing against 15 criteria including ease of maintenance and disease resistance. The "AARS Winner" distinction ensures that the rose will perform the best for gardeners nationwide. Every year, rose hybridizers submit top performing roses for two years of review in 23 test gardens in varying climates across the country, which provide similar conditions and challenges inherent in most American gardens. Of the many roses that are tested, only a select few are crowned winners every year.

**Rainbow Knock Out®**

Even more floriferous and disease-resistant than its famous parent, Rainbow Knock Out is a bushy and compact landscape shrub rose with short stems bearing glossy, dark green leaves. Its blooms are single-form flowers that start out as pointed buds and appear abundantly throughout the growing season. The delicate five-petaled flowers are two inches in diameter and are a deep coral-pink color with a yellow center finishing nicely to light coral. The petals emit a delicate sweetbriar scent. Suitable for container growing in small spaces, winter hardy to zone 4 and is fully resistant to black spot, mildew and rust. Hybridized by William Radler and introduced by The Conard Pyle Co.

**Moondance™**

Moondance is a floribunda characterized by large trusses of creamy white, beautifully formed flowers contrasted by very glossy dark green foliage. Upright and well branched, it is an extremely vigorous and tall plant with stems that are typically 14-18 inches long. Rose buds are pointed and oval-shaped in

form leading to high-centered flowers, which open flat to about 3½ -inches in diameter and consist of approximately 25 petals each. Moondance has an exceptionally delightful spicy fragrance and is highly resistant to black spot, mildew and rust. Hybridized by Keith Zary and introduced by Jackson & Perkins.

**Strike It Rich™**

A modern version of the classic 1950 AARS award-winner Sutter's Gold, Strike It Rich resembles its famous ancestor with strong spicy fragrance and elegant buds of deep golden-yellow swirled with ruby red. It is much easier to grow because of its great

disease-resistance and strong natural vigor. This true grandiflora bears loads of long-stemmed blossoms offset by very dark green leaves and unusual deep red stems. A medium-tall upright bush, Strike It Rich boasts clusters of voluptuous double and informal flowers that are up to 5-inches in diameter with approximately 30 petals each. The flowers are long-lived and retain their blend of gold, orange and red tones to the very end. Hybridized by Tom Carruth and introduced by Weeks Roses.

NEWS FROM VARIOUS IPM REPORTS

- Thrips and Whitefly control using *Amblyseius swirskii* predators
- Mimosa webworm, *Homadaula anisocentra*
- Nantucket pine tip moth
- Hibiscus sawflies, *Atomacera decepta*
- Rose curculio beetle
- Southern red, two spotted, spider and boxwood mites
- Bacterial Leaf Spot
- Lace bugs
- Early instar bagworms
- Rhododendron borer adults
- Japanese beetles
- Gypsy moths on spruce migrating to maples
- Hosta virus X
- Oak leaf skeletonizer
- Black vine weevil

www.agnr.umd.edu/ipmnet/home.html

SUDDEN OAK DEATH CONTAINED ON OREGON COAST

A project to eradicate sudden oak death found in the natural environment on the southern Oregon coast is a mixed bag of results so far. While a five-year multi-agency effort to completely get rid of the tree-killing disease, *Phytophthora ramorum*, has not yet reached its ultimate goal, officials are encouraged that it hasn't spread far beyond its original detection site which includes less than 88 acres of infected plant material. *P. ramorum* invades susceptible plants through the bark, killing the entire plant or portions of the plant. Certain species of oak commonly found in southwest Oregon, including tanoak and black oak, are very susceptible. But *P. ramorum* also infects rhododendron, huckleberry, madrone, myrtle, and several other shrubs.

www.oregon.gov/ODA/news/060607sod.shtml

NATURE'S GREAT GARDENS – RAIN FORESTS

"Covering less than 2 percent of earth's surface... home to more than 50 percent of the world's plants and animals. A typical 4-square mile tract contains as many as 1,500 flowering plants, 750 tree species, 400 species of birds and 150 species of butterflies." *Nature Conservancy*, Summer 2006, *Nature.Org*, Vol 56, No. 2, p.3.

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES**MAC - I.S.A. Certified Arborist Exams**

Click for web page with class listings.

VNLA RISK MANAGEMENT EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS

Aug 16 Suffolk, VA Contact: 1-800-476-0055

VNLA Virginia Certified Horticulturist Exam

Jul 12 Lancaster Farms Conference Room, Suffolk

Aug 1 Central Virginia Community College, Lynchburg

Aug 13 Monroe Technology Center, Leesburg

Virginia Green Industry Scholarships

Click "[Go Green](#)" web page for information on numerous scholarships – from Arboriculture to Urban Forestry. Also get information on Virginia higher education programs.



FEATURE ARTICLE -- IMMIGRATION FOLLOW-UP

CONGRESS

On May 25th, the Senate passed comprehensive immigration reform legislation (S. 2611). The legislation is a bipartisan compromise that includes a much needed guest worker program, a pathway to earned permanent resident status for qualifying undocumented immigrants currently residing in the U.S., increased border and national security measures and a new employment verification and eligibility system.

The Essential Worker Immigration Coalition (**EWIC**) backed the Senate bill. EWIC is a coalition of business and industry organizations across the nation, which primarily represents the green, construction, and hospitality industries and includes the American Nursery and Landscape Association, OFA-an Association of Floriculture Professionals, Southern Nursery Association, and Virginia Nursery and Landscape Association.

Passage of S. 2611 set the stage for what will likely be a difficult and contentious House/Senate conference, in which the Senate bill will now have to be harmonized with the House's enforcement-only bill (H.R. 4437) passed Dec 2005.

EWIC states that while they are *"open to negotiations and reasonable changes, the business community cannot support a bill unless it contains all of the following provisions:*

- 1) Increased border security that strengthens national security by providing for the screening of foreign workers and creating a disincentive for illegal immigration;*
- 2) The implementation of an efficient, practical and accurate employee verification system that provides ample protection from liability for employers who comply with the system. This system should be rolled out in a reasonable manner and should not overly burden employers either financially or functionally;*
- 3) A guest worker program that will help to meet the employment needs of our economy when U.S. workers are not available and ensures appropriate workplace and wage protections while providing these contributing members of society the opportunity to adjust to a more permanent status; and*
- 4) An earned pathway to legal status for undocumented workers who meet qualifying criteria, including an option for those who earn status to eventually qualify for a more permanent status and potentially U.S. citizenship. This program should include also a fix to the employment-based immigrant visa process and numerical limitations."*

www.ewic.org/documents/05102006173043_EWICDocument.pdf

What happens next is a crapshoot. While President Bush has pushed for moderation by the House, there is no indication they are heeding. The Senate cannot move this alone. Joint-conference members have not been announced nor meetings scheduled. Party lines are not rigged. Congress is in recess for month of Aug and Oct 6th is target date for adjournment. Then there are the fall elections where this will be a hot potato. Are the issues so divisive that stalemate will prevail? Legislation dies from in-action or the House holds hearings, avoiding action? Time is running out for the 109th Congress. Will the 110th Congress do better?

H1B CAP REACHED

The H-1B cap for foreign nationals with a bachelor's degree or the equivalent was reached for the new fiscal year 2007 (FY07) on May 26, 2006, the earliest date yet.

IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT RAIDS

Beginning in April, ICE agents and officers, in conjunction with other federal, state and local agencies, started conducting nationwide worksite enforcement operations. ICE arrested nine current and former managers of IFCO on criminal charges, conducted searches at more than 40 IFCO locations in 26 states, (including Virginia) and arrested 1,187 illegal alien IFCO employees (approximately 60% of their workforce). IFCO is the largest pallet manufacturer in the U.S. and each manager faces the possibility of serving jail time and up to \$250,000 in fines for each alien. Raids have continued with ICE agents focusing on all industries where employers knowingly hire undocumented aliens and are seeking to penalize both employers and undocumented aliens alike.

DHS Press Releases (<http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/archdisplay?theme=43>), News Releases, www.qtlaw.com/practices/immigration/compliance/index.htm

GUIDANCE FOR THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY ON COMPLIANCE AND RECENT ICE ACTION

ANLA suggested practical steps to take before you receive an unexpected visit by DHS or the Department of Labor wanting to conduct an audit, execute a search warrant or apprehend employees for alleged immigration law violations are at:

www.anla.org/applications/Documents/Docs/Audit_and_Search_Warrent_Summary_4-06.pdf

Also, EWIC has posted detailed guidance from Greenberg Traurig's Business Immigration Group at

http://www.ewic.org/documents/04282006150258_April27GTImmAlert.pdf.

TWO FEDERAL REGULATIONS PROPOSED TO IMPROVE WORKSITE ENFORCEMENT

DHS announced the proposal of two federal regulations aimed at: 1) improving worksite enforcement; 2) preventing the use of fraudulent Social Security numbers by illegal aliens; and 3) assisting employers in verifying the employment eligibility of workers. These proposed regulations are now subject to a 60-day public comment period (ends Aug 14th), although the I-9 regulation become effective on an interim basis when published. www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=5684

THE CASE OF DAWSON COUNTY, NEBRASKA

Örn Bodvarsson and Hendrik Van den Berg, University of Nebraska, studied the impact of immigration on a local economy. The Hispanic population of Lexington, seat of Nebraska's Dawson County, increased nearly ten-fold between 1990 and 2000, from just over 400 to about 4,000, and the city's population grew from 6,600 to over 10,000. Economic trends in the 1990s contrast sharply with the previous decade, when the county's population and overall employment declined rapidly. Traditional immigration models predict that immigration depresses wages and raises unemployment rates. However, census data and other evidence on Dawson County's economy suggest exactly the opposite occurred during the 1990s -- immigration stimulated both labor supply and demand, hence explaining the subsequent rebound in employment, average wages, and economic growth. The study was published in Great Plains Research, Vol. 13, NO. 2, 2003, pp. 291-309.

www.ewic.org/documents/04122006120140_Lexington-GreatPlains3-15-05.pdf